

MCGC Neighbors' Notes to Provide Context: The request below, written by a member of What the Frack?! Arapahoe, was presented to Council members during the City Council meeting on April 13, 2015. It contains suggestions for modifying the Oil & Gas Committee. This group has worked tirelessly since 2011 to encourage education about fracking, and since 2012 to encourage changes to this committee. If you are in agreement with some or all of the points in this request, What the Frack?! Arapahoe has given permission for you to use these points in your own email request to City Council.

April 13, 2015

REQUEST FOR AURORA CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO THE OIL AND GAS SUB COMMITTEE

Dear Council Members,

What the Frack?! Arapahoe concerned citizens group has been requesting variants of the suggested changes below since 2012. I came before you this evening to ask you to include these suggestions in your continuing deliberations regarding the sub committee. We sincerely believe that these suggested changes would result in a group that would be a more effective resource to you and to the public of Aurora.

Requested changes:

- 1) Creation of a formal commission or board, rather than subcommittee, with transparent rules of operation, mission, appointment, composition of membership, duration of terms for all members, public minutes.
- 2) Hold the meetings in the evening, just as boards and commissions do, to make it more accessible for members and the public to attend.
- 3) Removal of the extra and onerous requirement for the esoteric legal essay (a 200 word essay on the current status of legal rights of local governments vis a vis state rights regarding mineral law) by general public applicants to the committee. Applicants to represent the public should not have additional hurdles and requirements over and above applicants from the oil and gas industry and developers.
- 4) Addition of several seats for the general public.

Currently the members selected as representing the public are pro oil and gas development. In

fact, the chair of an advocacy group that *promotes* oil and gas development was recently appointed as an additional representative of the general public. The general public needs broader representation.

There should be seats on the committee for a representative of each neighborhood / development that is within a several mile radius of oil and gas operations, such as Adonea and Murphy Creek.

Additionally, What the Frack?! Arapahoe is a concerned citizens group that has been actively presenting to City Council since 2011 regarding actions of other local governments in Colorado, known impacts to local residents, and scientific studies pertaining to substantial risks to health, property damage, quiet enjoyment of home property, water security, and climate change, as related to unconventional extraction of gas and oil from shale.

If there is a seat assigned to represent an advocacy group that promotes oil and gas, there should be a seat available for a member of What the Frack?! Arapahoe local concerned citizens group, that calls for consideration of impact and risk.

5) The committee must be kept informed on the available scientific information pertaining to known impacts and risks of high volume slickwater hydraulic fracturing of shale. The mission of the committee should therefore explicitly include periodic scientific advisory updates, regarding scientifically researched risks to health, seismic property damage, risks to surface and ground water from migration of thermogenic gases and injected chemicals, additional risks to climate change escalation, and projected impact of water use on regional drought and on clean water supplies.

Colorado scientists who are engaged in research on these issues should be invited to present periodic public overviews and updates:

- health scientists at the Colorado School of Public Health,
- hydrogeologists who study flow of liquids through CO geology,
- climate scientists studying air dispersion of hazardous oil and gas chemicals and methane flaring on air quality, ozone, and other greenhouse gases -climate scientists studying Colorado's projected mega drought and future water availability
- USGS scientists who can summarize the impact of fracking and deep well injections on earthquake activity and seismic damage to buildings and homes

Additionally, the committee should be updated by Colorado regulatory agency status reports, from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (regarding Colorado oil and gas spills, fires, explosions and other accident rates, and the number of state inspectors available to oversee oil and gas well sites), and the Colorado Air Quality Commission (regarding Hazardous Air Pollutant emissions from oil and gas processes).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the above suggestions, as part of your deliberations to ensure more representative public membership, more transparency of its operations and structure, and a more informed committee that will be more helpful to Council and the public.